

Somerset  
Near Pinopolis  
Berkeley County  
South Carolina

4-2  
HABS No. SC-20

HABS  
S.C.

8-PINOP.V

3-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of South Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office  
for Southeast Unit

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

HABS  
SC-20  
6. PINOPOLIS  
3-

## SOMERSET

Near Pinopolis, Berkeley County, South Carolina

Owner: Santee-Cooper Hydroelectric and Navigation ProjectDate of erection: 1827Present condition: Fair; in danger of inundationDescription:

The house is two full stories over a high basement and is covered with unpainted cypress weatherboards. The gable is treated as a pediment, the horizontal and raking cornices containing mutules. The tympanum of the gable is flush-sheathed with a large triple centered on it. The chimneys project from the ridge and the caps are almost identical with those at Ophir, though high pointed arch flue bonnets give the shafts more verticality.

The exterior of the house is awkward, as it is square and high and stands on a perfectly flat site without any planting to soften the lines of the building. Somewhat smaller in scale than most of the houses of the type, it possesses only four windows across the front and three on the side. The former condition creates a wide wall space on the facade over the double doorway. The latter causes the fenestration of the side elevations to be unsymmetrical, as the front windows are grouped to light one of the parlors, and the rear window is spaced toward the rear to center in the back room.

The plan consists of a pair of equal drawing rooms in the front with an intercommunicating door, and a door to the porch from each. These rooms have a fireplace in the rear wall, with a door to the hall at one side. This rear hall has a stair against one wall and a pair of closets facing it. An extension appears at the rear in the form of a covered porch at the end of the hall, with a small room at either side.

The heavy square porch columns are said to be replacements dating from 1852, when probably the marble mantels of the front parlors were inserted. Except for the mantels and the doors the interiors are original and possess woodwork of considerable merit. The doors and windows of the front rooms have trim that is composed of a band of reeding framed by a moulded backband. The dados are paneled, with an applied supplementary panel mould, and have moulded and marbled

bases and carved chair rails. The motive used for the carving is continuous fluting with an undulating interruption in the center. This is reminiscent of carving of the Delaware River area. It is possible that the craftsmen employed in Upper Berkeley County came from Philadelphia, since there are many similarities to be seen in the type of ornament and in the method employed in the two localities. The cornices of the Somerset parlors have a curious enrichment of two tiers of diminutive brackets below a carved and bored cymatium and above a fluted frieze. The mantels are plain late Empire style in black and gold marble. The rear rooms, however, have reeded carved and gouged mantels.

--From "A Survey of the Early Buildings in the Region of the Proposed Santee and Pinopolis Reservoirs in South Carolina" by Thomas T. Waterman

Other existing records:

Stoney, S. C., Plantations of the Carolina Low Country

Author: Thomas T. Waterman

Approved: 10/15/40

ADDITIONAL

FOR OVER

Addendum to:

Somerset (William Cain House)  
Pinopolis Vicinity  
Berkeley County  
South Carolina

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PHOTOGRAPH

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243